



U.S. House of Representatives Committee on the Judiciary F. James Sensenbrenner, Jr., Chairman

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News Advisory

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Crime Subcommittee Hearing Wednesday on Legislation Updating the FISA Act

What: Legislative Hearing titled, "Legislative Proposals to Update the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA)"
Who: Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security – Rep. Howard Coble (R-N.C.), Chairman
When: 1:00 p.m., Wednesday, September 6, 2006
Where: 2141 Rayburn Building

Since the terrorists attacks of 9/11 nearly five years ago, many counterterrorism and law enforcement officials have sought more tools to fight the War on Terror. While the PATRIOT Act has proven very helpful thus far in preventing another terrorist attack, many remain concerned about the adequacy of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA), originally enacted in 1978, in helping these officials fight a 21st-century terrorist threat that is technologically advanced and always adapting.

THIS HEARING WILL...

⇒ **Examine the need to update and reform FISA.** In particular, the hearing will examine legislative proposals related to the Federal government conducting electronic surveillance for intelligence purposes. These proposals include: **H.R. 5825** sponsored by Rep. Heather Wilson, House Judiciary Committee Chairman Sensenbrenner, and House Intelligence Committee Chairman Hoekstra; **S. 2453** introduced by Senator Specter; **S. 2455** introduced by Sen. DeWine; **H.R. 5371** sponsored by Reps. Harman and Conyers; **H.R. 4976** sponsored by Reps. Schiff and Flake; and **H.R. 5223** sponsored by Rep. Conyers.

WITNESSES: Steve Bradbury, Acting Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legal Counsel, U.S. Department of Justice; Robert L. Deitz, General Counsel, National Security Agency; Robert Alt, Fellow, Legal and International Affairs, The John M. Ashbrook Center for Public Affairs, Ashland University; and Jim Dempsey, Policy Director, Center for Democracy and Technology.

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